

SNF Project achieves three million safe work hours

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Spent Nuclear Fuel Project employees have performed three million safe hours without a day lost to injury, thus demonstrating a steadfast commitment to safety during a time of extremely challenging work. The milestone was reached the last week of June by approximately 700 employees of prime contractor Fluor Hanford and its subcontractors. All project facilities participated in the safe work record.

The accomplishment comes after a previous record of two million safe hours last November, and two previous one-million-hour safety accomplishments between April 1999 and April 2000. This past year, the SNF Project also maintained a below-average Occupational Safety and Health Administration recordable injury case rate.

The three-million-hour safety feat occurred during a time of sustained accomplishments that included removing 14 Multi-Canister Overpacks, or MCOs, loaded with spent fuel from the K West Basin. The fuel was dried inside the MCOs at the Cold Vacuum Drying facility and placed into dry interim storage at the Canister Storage Building. Each MCO contains nearly five metric tons of irradiated uranium and approximately 150,000 curies of radioactivity.

"This achievement becomes more outstanding when the level of intense work effort and activity is considered," said Dave Mobley, SNF safety manager for Fluor Hanford. "The SNF Project is doing unique work that has never been done anywhere in the world before. This achievement really highlights the attitude and commitment to a safe work environment on the part of all the SNF Project employees. I congratulate SNF Project workers for caring enough to dedicate and involve themselves in attaining a safe and injury-free workplace."

Bob Heck, Fluor Hanford vice president for Spent Nuclear Fuel, praised SNF team members for focusing on performing this demanding work safely every day. "I have tremendous admiration and respect for the SNF Project workers," he said. "Together, we are meeting the objectives for our project for production and safety." ♦



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Fluor Hanford operators and riggers (from left background) Duane Hall, Moses Rocha, Earl Palmer, Kim Armatis and Terry Nygaard off-load a new Multi-Canister Overpack in the Canister Storage Building and prepare to place it inside a cask for shipment to the K West Basin.

SNF continues fuel removal

The Spent Nuclear Fuel Project has now removed 16 MCOs of fuel from the K West Basin since operations began there last Dec. 7. The 16 MCOs contained nearly 75 metric tons of irradiated uranium in total, along with about 2.4 million curies of radioactivity.